

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

## KATHRYN MARIE SEIDLER,

CASE NO. C23-0816JLR

Plaintiff,

## ORDER

V.

AMAZON,

Defendant.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Before the court is Defendant Amazon.com Services LLC’s (“Amazon”<sup>1</sup>) motion to dismiss *pro se* Plaintiff Kathryn Marie Seidler’s complaint. (Mot. (Dkt. # 10); *see also* Compl. (Dkt. # 1).) Ms. Seidler filed no response to the motion. (*See generally* Dkt.); *see* Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(2) (“Except for motions for summary judgment, if a party fails to file papers in opposition to a motion, such failure may be considered by

<sup>1</sup> Amazon.com Services LLC was incorrectly named in this action as “Amazon.” (See Compl. (Dkt. # 1) at 1; *see also* Mot. (Dkt. # 10) at 1.)

1 the court as an admission that the motion has merit.”). The court has considered the  
 2 motion, the relevant portions of the record, and the governing law. Being fully advised,<sup>2</sup>  
 3 the court GRANTS Amazon’s motion to dismiss.

4 **II. BACKGROUND<sup>3</sup>**

5 Ms. Seidler is a 53-year-old “German Australian” national, identifies as Catholic,  
 6 and resides in Seattle, Washington. (See Compl. at 6-7; EEOC Compl. (Dkt. # 1-2) at  
 7 11-12.) Ms. Seidler worked at Amazon as a Sortation Associate from approximately  
 8 March 13, 2020 to September 28, 2021. (Compl. at 7; EEOC Compl. at 11, 23.) When  
 9 she joined Amazon, Ms. Seidler established “long term career and family planning goals”  
 10 for herself that she apparently intended to accomplish through her employment benefits.  
 11 (EEOC Compl. at 11.) For example, Ms. Seidler received or expected to receive certain  
 12 reproductive health benefits as an Amazon employee, including “Progyny.” (Compl. at  
 13 7.) Related to her family planning efforts, Ms. Seidler alleges she has a frozen embryo in  
 14 Australia awaiting shipment to the United States. (EEOC Compl. at 11.)

15 After commencing her role as a Sortation Associate, Ms. Seidler began observing  
 16 “safety violations” at the warehouse where she worked. (EEOC Compl. at 13.) These  
 17 included “failure to rotate,” “excessive heavy lifting,” and excessive heat. (*Id.*) Ms.  
 18 Seidler also began experiencing “sexual harassment” due to her work activities, which

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 21 <sup>2</sup> Neither party requests oral argument (*see generally* Mot.; Dkt.) and the court  
 22 determines that oral argument would not be helpful in resolving the motion, *see* Local Rules  
 W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(4).

<sup>3</sup> The court takes the facts from Ms. Seidler’s complaint and the documents attached  
 thereto. *See United States v. Ritchie*, 342 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir. 2003) (in evaluating a  
 complaint under Rule 12(b)(6), courts may consider documents attached to the complaint).

1 included “frequent bending, stooping, and squatting, almost groveling.” (*Id.*) Ms.  
2 Seidler observed that female employees “accepted less overtime” due to these safety and  
3 harassment concerns, which resulted in a pay disparity between male and female  
4 employees. (*Id.* at 14-15.) In addition, Ms. Seidler alleges she experienced “a  
5 defamatory allegation pertaining to her German ancestry.” (EEOC Compl. at 13.) Ms.  
6 Seidler requested to transfer work sites and was denied. (*Id.* at 14.) Throughout 2021,  
7 Ms. Seidler applied to various other positions within Amazon, including “Global Sales  
8 Account Representative” and a “Business Intelligence Engineer Apprenticeship.” (*Id.* at  
9 10.) However, Ms. Seidler never advanced in the application or interview process for  
10 any of these roles. (*See id.*) Ms. Seidler abandoned her position at Amazon on or around  
11 September 28, 2021. (*Id.* at 23.)

12 Ms. Seidler filed a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
13 (“EEOC”) on February 27, 2023. (Compl. at 8.) The EEOC dismissed the charge the  
14 same day it was filed and informed Ms. Seidler of her right to sue. (EEOC Letter (Dkt.  
15 # 1-3) at 1.) Ms. Seidler then filed this action against Amazon on May 30, 2023, alleging  
16 employment discrimination and retaliation. (*See generally* Compl.) Ms. Seidler claims  
17 Amazon discriminated against her on the basis of sex, “pregnancy” and “potential  
18 pregnancy,” age, national origin, and religion. (*Id.* at 4.) She also alleges Amazon  
19 unlawfully blocked her progression into more advanced roles within the company and  
20 denied her transfer request. (*See id.* at 5; EEOC Compl. at 10, 22.) Ms. Seidler brings  
21 her claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with  
22 Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of

1 1967 (“ADEA”). (Compl. at 3-4.) Ms. Seidler also raises “habe[a]s corpus issues” in  
 2 light of the United States Supreme Court’s decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*.<sup>4</sup> (Compl.  
 3 at 4; EEOC Compl. at 8.) In particular, Ms. Seidler claims the law arguably recognizes  
 4 fetuses as living persons and that Amazon has unlawfully failed to deliver her frozen  
 5 embryo from Australia to the United States. (*Id.* at 5-6, 9; EEOC Compl. at 8, 11-12.)

6 Amazon filed the instant motion to dismiss on September 13, 2023. (*See*  
 7 *generally* Mot.) Ms. Seidler filed no response to the motion, though she did file an  
 8 Amended Complaint on October 6, 2023. (*See generally* Dkt.; Am. Compl. (Dkt. # 11).)  
 9 Amazon moved to strike the Amended Complaint for failure to follow the requirements  
 10 of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15, and the court granted that motion. (Mot. to Strike  
 11 (Dkt. # 12); 10/11/23 Order (Dkt. # 13).) The operative pleading for purposes of  
 12 Amazon’s motion to dismiss therefore remains Ms. Seidler’s first complaint. (*See*  
 13 *generally* Compl.)

14 **III. ANALYSIS**

15 The court sets forth the legal standard governing dismissal before turning to  
 16 Amazon’s motion to dismiss.

17 **A. Standard of Review**

18 Because Ms. Seidler is a *pro se* Plaintiff, the court must construe her pleadings  
 19 liberally. *See McGuckin v. Smith*, 974 F.2d 1050, 1055 (9th Cir. 1992). Federal Rule of  
 20 Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) provides for dismissal when a complaint “fail[s] to state a claim

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 22 <sup>4</sup> 410 U.S. 113 (1973), *overruled by Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Org.*, 597 U.S.  
 \_\_\_, 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022).

1 upon which relief can be granted.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P.  
2 8(a)(2) (requiring the plaintiff to provide “a short and plain statement of the claim  
3 showing that the pleader is entitled to relief”). Under this standard, the court construes  
4 the allegations in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party, *Livid Holdings Ltd. v.*  
5 *Salomon Smith Barney, Inc.*, 416 F.3d 940, 946 (9th Cir. 2005), and asks whether the  
6 claim contains “sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is  
7 plausible on its face,’” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (quoting *Bell Atl.*  
8 *Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). The court need not accept as true legal  
9 conclusions, “formulaic recitation[s] of the legal elements of a cause of action,” *Chavez*  
10 *v. United States*, 683 F.3d 1102, 1008 (9th Cir. 2012), or “allegations that are merely  
11 conclusory, unwarranted deductions of fact, or unreasonable inferences,” *Sprewell v.*  
12 *Golden State Warriors*, 266 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir. 2001). “A claim has facial  
13 plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the  
14 reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Iqbal*, 556  
15 U.S. at 678. Although the pleading standard announced by Federal Rule of Civil  
16 Procedure 8 does not require “detailed factual allegations,” it demands more than “an  
17 unadorned, the-defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678  
18 (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a).

19 **B. Motion to Dismiss**

20 Construing the complaint liberally, the court determines that Ms. Seidler raises the  
21 following claims: (1) discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy), national  
22 origin, and religion under Title VII; (2) disability discrimination under the ADA; (3) age

1 discrimination under the ADEA; (4) retaliation under Title VII; and (4) habeas corpus.  
2 Amazon argues Ms. Seidler's discrimination and retaliation claims should be dismissed  
3 with prejudice because Ms. Seidler failed to timely file a charge with the EEOC before  
4 initiating this lawsuit, and because her factual allegations do not state a plausible claim  
5 for relief. (Mot. at 3-6.) Amazon further argues that habeas corpus is not a cognizable  
6 legal theory under the circumstances. (*Id.* at 6.) The court examines these arguments in  
7 turn.

8       1. Discrimination and Retaliation Under Title VII, the ADA, and the ADEA

9           Because a timely EEOC charge is a prerequisite to filing suit under Title VII, the  
10 ADA, and the ADEA, the court first addresses the timeliness of Ms. Seidler's EEOC  
11 charge before turning to the specific factual allegations supporting her claims.

12           a. *EEOC Charge*

13           In order to bring claims alleging employment discrimination under Title VII, the  
14 ADA, and the ADEA, a plaintiff must first timely file a charge with the EEOC. 42  
15 U.S.C. § 200e-5(e)(2) (Title VII); 42 U.S.C. § 12117 (the ADA, incorporating the  
16 enforcement procedures set forth at 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5); 29 U.S.C. § 626(d)(1) (the  
17 ADEA); *see also, e.g., MacDonald v. Grace Church Seattle*, 457 F.3d 1079, 1088 (9th  
18 Cir. 2006) (affirming dismissal of Title VII claims where the plaintiff failed to timely file  
19 an EEOC charge). Although the statutory deadline varies depending on the specific  
20 procedure in place, the deadline does not exceed 300 days after the alleged unlawful  
21 employment practice occurred. 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(e)(1); 29 U.S.C. § 626(d)(1)(B).  
22 However, the filing requirement "is subject to waiver, estoppel, and equitable tolling."

1 *Johnson v. Lucent Techs. Inc.*, 653 F.3d 1000, 1009 (9th Cir. 2011) (citing *Zipes v. Trans*  
 2 *World Airlines, Inc.*, 455 U.S. 385, 393 (1982)); *see also, e.g., id.* (explaining that the  
 3 doctrine of equitable estoppel “focuses primarily on the actions taken by the defendant  
 4 in preventing a plaintiff from filing suit.”” (quoting *Johnson v. Henderson*, 314 F.3d 409,  
 5 414 (9th Cir. 2002)); *Green v. L.A. Cnty. Superintendent of Sch.*, 883 F.2d 1472, 1480  
 6 (9th Cir. 1989) (holding EEOC charge was timely filed based on local agency’s waiver of  
 7 jurisdiction); *Forester v. Chertoff*, 500 F.3d 920, 930 (9th Cir. 2007) (“Equitable tolling  
 8 is appropriate where there is ‘excusable ignorance of the limitations period and [a] lack of  
 9 prejudice to the defendant,’” or where ““the danger of prejudice to the defendant is  
 10 absent, and the interests of justice [require relief].”” (quoting *Naton v. Bank of Cal.*, 649  
 11 F.2d 691, 696 (9th Cir. 1981), and *Azer v. Connell*, 306 F.3d 930, 936 (9th Cir. 2002))).

12       Here, Ms. Seidler’s employment ended in September 2021, but she did not file a  
 13 charge with the EEOC until February 27, 2023. (Compl. at 8.). Even assuming a  
 14 300-day deadline applies, Ms. Seidler’s window to file an EEOC charge passed in  
 15 approximately July 2022. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(e)(1); 42 U.S.C. § 12117; 29 U.S.C.  
 16 § 626(d)(1). Ms. Seidler alleges no facts suggesting that equitable doctrines such as  
 17 waiver, estoppel, or tolling render her EEOC charge timely. (*See generally* Compl.;  
 18 EEOC Compl.); *Johnson*, 653 F.3d at 10091. It therefore appears that Ms. Seidler’s  
 19 EEOC charge was untimely, which is fatal to her claims. Because Ms. Seidler failed to  
 20 timely file a charge with the EEOC, her discrimination and retaliation claims under Title  
 21 VII, the ADA, and the ADEA are DISMISSED without prejudice and with leave to  
 22 amend. If Ms. Seidler wishes to continue pursuing these claims, she must file an

1 amended complaint setting forth factual allegations that establish her EEOC charge was  
2 rendered timely via waiver, estoppel, or tolling.

3                   *b. Facial Plausibility: Discrimination*

4                   As noted, Ms. Seidler may cure the EEOC-related deficiency identified above by  
5 filing an amended complaint that provides additional facts establishing that her charge  
6 was timely based on equitable principles. Accordingly, the court must also address  
7 whether the factual allegations supporting Ms. Seidler's discrimination and retaliation  
8 claims under Title VII, the ADA, and the ADEA are sufficiently plausible to survive  
9 dismissal. The court concludes that these claims are factually deficient but may be cured  
10 upon filing an amended complaint.

11                   Title VII makes it unlawful for an employer "to fail or refuse to hire or to  
12 discharge any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect  
13 to . . . compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such  
14 individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin." 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a)(1); *see*  
15 *also Int'l Union v. Johnson Controls, Inc.*, 499 U.S. 187, 206 (1991) (explaining that,  
16 pursuant to the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, sex discrimination under Title VII  
17 encompasses discrimination based on pregnancy and the capacity to become pregnant).  
18 The ADA prohibits an employer from discriminating "against a qualified individual with  
19 a disability because of the disability." 42 U.S.C. § 12112(a). The ADEA prohibits an  
20 employer from, among other things, failing or refusing to hire an individual "because of"  
21 that individual's age. 29 U.S.C. § 623(a)(1), 631(a). In each context, a plaintiff may  
22 bring an action against an employer under the theories of disparate treatment and

1 disparate impact. *Fragante v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 888 F.2d 591, 594 (9th Cir.  
 2 1989) (Title VII); *Raytheon Co. v. Hernandez*, 540 U.S. 44, 53 (2003) (ADA); *Smith v.*  
 3 *City of Jackson*, 544 U.S. 228, 231-32 (2005) (ADEA); *see also Raytheon Co.*, 540 U.S.  
 4 at 52-53 (explaining that disparate treatment concerns the employer's subjective intent to  
 5 discriminate whereas disparate impact concerns facially neutral employment practices  
 6 that disproportionately harm a certain class of persons).

7 To establish a prima facie case of disparate treatment under Title VII, a plaintiff  
 8 must show that: (1) she is a member of a protected class; (2) she performed according to  
 9 her employer's expectations; (3) she suffered an adverse employment action; and  
 10 (4) similarly situated individuals outside her protected class were treated more favorably.  
 11 *Chuang v. Univ. of Cal. Davis, Bd. of Trustees*, 225 F.3d 1115, 1123 (9th Cir. 2000). To  
 12 establish a prima facie case of disparate treatment under the ADA, a plaintiff must show  
 13 that she (1) has a disability within the meaning of the ADA; (2) she was qualified for the  
 14 position; and (3) suffered an adverse employment action because of her disability. *Snead*  
 15 *v. Metro. Prop. & Cas. Ins. Co.*, 237 F.3d 1080, 1087 (9th Cir. 2001). The ADA defines  
 16 "disability" as "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more  
 17 major life activities" of the individual. 42 U.S.C. § 12102. And "[i]n the ADEA context,  
 18 the following factors give rise to a prima facie showing of age discrimination:  
 19 (1) membership in a protected class (forty years or older); (2) satisfactory job  
 20 performance; (3) discharge; and (4) replacement by 'substantially younger employees  
 21 with equal or inferior qualifications.'" *Opara v. Yellen*, 57 F.4th 709, 722 (9th Cir. 2023)  
 22 (quoting *Coleman v. Quaker Oats Co.*, 232 F.3d 1271, 1281 (9th Cir. 2000)). However,

1 “a plaintiff is not required to plead a prima facie case of discrimination or retaliation in  
2 order to survive a motion to dismiss.” *Cloud v. Brennan*, 436 F. Supp. 3d 1290, 1300  
3 (N.D. Cal. 2020). “Instead, courts look to the elements of the prima facie case ‘to decide,  
4 in light of judicial experience and common sense, whether the challenged complaint  
5 contains sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim for relief that is  
6 plausible on its face.’” *Id.* at 1304 (quoting *Achal v. Gate Gourmet, Inc.*, 114 F. Supp. 3d  
7 781, 796-97 (N.D. Cal. 2015)).

8 Ms. Seidler’s complaint appears to raise two types of discrimination claims under  
9 a disparate treatment theory: (1) failure to hire on the basis of sex, national origin,  
10 religion, and disability under Title VII, the ADA, and the ADEA (*see* Compl. at 4-5  
11 (discussing lack of career advancement); EEOC Compl. at 10 (listing jobs to which Ms.  
12 Seidler unsuccessfully applied)); and (2) sex discrimination under Title VII arising from  
13 unequal terms and conditions of employment (*see* Compl. at 4-5 (describing unequal pay  
14 and distribution of work tasks between male and female employees); EEOC Compl. at  
15 14-15 (same)). These allegations, however, are insufficient to state a plausible claim for  
16 relief under Title VII, the ADA, or the ADEA. While Ms. Seidler is not required to  
17 provide “detailed factual allegations,” she must offer more than “an unadorned, the-  
18 defendant-unlawfully harmed-me accusation.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (citing *Twombly*,  
19 550 U.S. at 555); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). The allegations in the complaint are  
20 largely conclusory and fail to provide fair notice of the factual basis supporting Ms.  
21 Seidler’s claims. For example, with respect to her failure-to-hire claims, Ms. Seidler  
22 provides no explanation that she performed her job to Amazon’s expectations, that she

1 was qualified for the roles to which she applied, or that similarly situated individuals  
 2 outside of her class—be it her religion, age group, nationality, or status as a pregnant or  
 3 soon-to-be pregnant person—were treated more favorably. *Chuang*, 225 F.3d at 1123;  
 4 *Opara*, 57 F.4th at 722.

5 With specific regard to the ADA, Ms. Seidler fails to identify her disability, if any.  
 6 *Snead*, 237 F.3d at 1087; (see generally Compl.) The complaint does not allege that Ms.  
 7 Seidler was pregnant during her employment at Amazon; at most, it appears Ms. Seidler  
 8 intended to become pregnant, but the ADA does not protect against discrimination based  
 9 on the mere possibility of becoming pregnant. *See Coates v. Washoe Cnty. Sch. Dist.*,  
 10 No. 3:20-cv-00182-LRH-CLB, 2020 WL 718746, at \*5 (E.D. Nev. Dec. 4, 2020) (citing  
 11 *Hogan v. Ogden*, No. CV-06-5078-EFS, 2008 WL 2954245, at \*4-5 (E.D. Wash. July 30,  
 12 2008)) (explaining that pregnancy and pregnancy-related complications qualify as  
 13 disabilities under the ADA only in very limited and fact-dependent circumstances). Ms.  
 14 Seidler also references a work-related injury (see Compl. at 4), but the complaint fails to  
 15 identify the injury or explain how this condition affects a major life activity so as to  
 16 constitute a “disability” under the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12102.

17 Although Ms. Seidler attached several lengthy documents to her complaint that  
 18 appear to relate to her EEOC charge (see, e.g., EEOC Compl.), Ms. Seidler does not  
 19 explain what these documents are and instead appears to rely on the court to sort through  
 20 her complaint and attached documents to try to identify the relevant facts. Although a  
 21 *pro se* litigant like Ms. Seidler is entitled to leeway when the court construes her  
 22 pleadings, *Brazil v. U.S. Dep’t of Navy*, 66 F.3d 193, 199 (9th Cir. 1995), it is not the

1 court's duty to sort through Ms. Seidler's complaint and documents in order to piece  
 2 together the basis of her claims. *See Indep. Towers of Wash. v. Washington*, 350 F.3d  
 3 925, 929 (9th Cir. 2003) (reciting the "now familiar maxim, '[j]udges are not like pigs,  
 4 hunting for truffles buried in briefs." (quoting *United States v. Dunkel*, 927 F.2d 955, 956  
 5 (7th Cir. 1991))).

6 In sum, the factual allegations supporting Ms. Seidler discrimination claims under  
 7 Title VII, the ADA, and the ADEA fall short of minimum pleading requirements.<sup>5</sup>  
 8 Should Ms. Seidler wish to continue pursuing her various discrimination claims, she must  
 9 file an amended complaint that not only shows her EEOC charge was rendered timely  
 10 based on equitable principles, but that also sets forth specific factual content permitting  
 11 the court to draw a reasonable inference that Amazon is liable for the discrimination  
 12 alleged. *See Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678.

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 16 <sup>5</sup> To the extent Ms. Seidler's complaint could be construed to raise hostile work  
 17 environment claims under Title VII based on national origin or sexual harassment, those claims  
 18 similarly fail to meet minimum pleading requirements. To allege a prima facie claim for hostile  
 19 work environment based on harassment or national origin, the employee must show: (1) that she  
 20 was subjected to verbal or physical conduct (a) of a harassing nature, or (b) because of her  
 21 national origin; (2) that this conduct was unwelcome; and (3) that the conduct was sufficiently  
 22 severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the victim's employment and create an abusive  
 working environment. *See Kortan v. Cal. Youth Auth.*, 217 F.3d 1104, 1109-10 (9th Cir. 2000)  
 (harassment); *Kang v. U. Lim Am., Inc.*, 296 F.3d 810, 817 (9th Cir. 2002) (national origin). Ms.  
 Seidler has offered only bare allegations that she was "sexually harass[ed]" and subjected to a  
 "defamatory allegation" about her German ancestry. (See EEOC Compl. at 13-14.) She has  
 offered almost no facts describing the alleged harassment, the defamatory allegation, or the  
 severity and pervasiveness of the same. (See *id.* (vaguely describing instances of "stalking,"  
 "intimidation," and a "Nazi" allegation that Ms. Seidler calls a "red herring").) The court cannot  
 discern the factual basis supporting any hostile work environment claim.

1      *c. Facial Plausibility: Retaliation*

2      Ms. Seidler next raises a retaliation claim under Title VII. (Compl. at 5-6.) Title  
3      VII makes it unlawful “for an employer to discriminate against any of his  
4      employees . . . because he has opposed any practice made an unlawful employment  
5      practice by this chapter.” 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-3(a). “Among other things, [the Act]  
6      prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who ‘oppose’ discriminatory  
7      employment practices.” *EEOC v. Dinuba Med. Clinic*, 222 F.3d 580, 586 (9th Cir.  
8      2000). To establish a *prima facie* case of retaliation, an aggrieved employee must show  
9      that: (1) she has engaged in statutorily protected expression; (2) she has suffered an  
10     adverse employment action; and (3) there is a causal link between the protected  
11     expression and the adverse action. *Id.* “To establish a causal connection between her  
12     protected activity and the adverse actions, a plaintiff may allege direct or circumstantial  
13     evidence from which causation can be inferred,” including “an employer’s ‘pattern of  
14     antagonism following the protected conduct,’” or “the temporal proximity of the  
15     protected activity and the occurrence of the adverse action.” *Id.* at 1301 (quoting *Porter*  
16     *v. Cal. Dep’t of Corr.*, 419 F.3d 885, 895 (9th Cir. 2005)).

17     Although her allegations are difficult to discern, Ms. Seidler appears to allege that  
18     Amazon engaged in retaliation by denying her transfer request in response to complaints  
19     she made about work conditions in the warehouse. (See EEOC Compl. at 15, 22.)  
20     However, Ms. Seidler offers only bare allegations of retaliation and very little factual  
21     detail concerning the subject matter, timing, and general circumstances of her complaints  
22     and transfer request. (See, e.g., Compl. at 5 (stating only that “[w]hen complaints were

1 made, retaliation ensued including repeating issues the source of complaint and or  
2 maintaining the acts, omissions and practices complained of"). As pleaded, the  
3 complaint fails to state a plausible claim for retaliation because it is not clear whether Ms.  
4 Seidler engaged in a protected activity, nor whether any such activity is causally linked to  
5 an adverse employment action. *Dinuba Med. Clinic*, 222 F.3d at 586. Should Ms.  
6 Seidler wish to continue pursuing her retaliation claim under Title VII, she must file an  
7 amended complaint she must file an amended complaint that not only shows her EEOC  
8 charge was rendered timely based on equitable principles, but that also sets forth specific  
9 factual content permitting the court to draw a reasonable inference that Amazon is liable  
10 for the retaliation alleged. *See Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678.

11       2. Habeas Corpus

12       Ms. Seidler's complaint appears to seek a writ of habeas corpus directing Amazon  
13 to deliver Ms. Seidler's frozen embryo from Australia to the United States. (See Compl.  
14 at 4-6.) Amazon argues dismissal is warranted because habeas corpus "is not a  
15 cognizable claim against an employer." (Mot. at 6.) The court agrees. The court's  
16 authority to issue writs of habeas corpus extends to cases involving the unlawful  
17 detention of persons in government custody. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2241, 2255 (authorizing  
18 federal courts to grant the writ); *see also Walker v. Wainwright*, 390 U.S. 335, 336 (1968)  
19 ("[T]he great and central office of the writ of habeas corpus is to test the legality of a  
20 prisoner's current detention."). Because the habeas statutes plainly do not apply to this  
21 private employment dispute, this claim is DISMISSED with prejudice.

### C. Leave to Amend

A district court should not dismiss a *pro se* complaint “without leave to amend ‘unless it is absolutely clear that the deficiencies of the complaint could not be cured by amendment.’” *Akhtar v. Mesa*, 698 F.3d 1202, 1212 (9th Cir. 2012) (quoting *Schucker v. Rockwood*, 846 F.2d 1202, 1203-04 (9th Cir. 1988) (per curiam)). Although Ms. Seidler has failed to plausibly plead her claims, the court cannot conclude that “it is absolutely clear that the deficiencies of the complaint could not be cured by amendment.” *Id.* at 1212. Thus, the court GRANTS Ms. Seidler leave to file an amended complaint that cures the deficiencies with respect to her discrimination and retaliation claims under Title VII, the ADA, and the ADEA. If she does so, Ms. Seidler must forth factual allegations establishing that equitable principles render her EEOC charge timely in addition to allegations establishing her right to relief under Title VII, the ADA, and the ADEA. Ms. Seidler shall file her amended complaint, if any, no later than **November 3, 2023**. If Ms. Seidler fails to timely comply with this order or fails to file an amended complaint that remedies the deficiencies discussed in this order, the court will dismiss her proposed complaint without leave to amend and close this case.

## IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the court GRANTS Amazon's motion to dismiss (Dkt. # 10).

Dated this 19th day of October.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES L. ROBART  
United States District Judge